

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

TWO NEW BIRDS FROM THE UPPER RIO NEGRO,
BRAZIL.

BY HERBERT FRIEDMANN *

1. A new Barbet of the *Capito auratus* group.

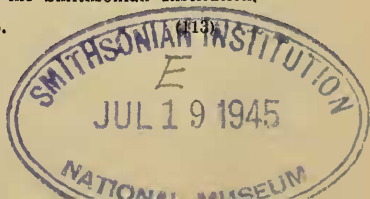
Chapman's paper on "Mutation in *Capito auratus*" (Amer. Mus. Novit. no. 335, 1928) brought out very clearly the fact that the color variations distinguishing the numerous races of this bird were geographically so interspersed as to suggest very strongly a mutational rather than a gradual, cumulative, environmentally induced origin for the various subspecies. Study of the barbets collected by the National Geographic Society's expeditions to the Brazilian-Venezuelan border reveals still another, hitherto undescribed, race of this highly plastic species, and one whose characters bear out the mutational origin suggested by Chapman. It is one of the scarlet-throated races but comes from the upper Rio Negro, geographically between two yellow-throated forms—*aurantiicinctus* to the north of it, and *hypochondriacus* to the south of it. It may be known as

Capito auratus transilens, subsp. nov.

Type: U. S. Nat. Mus. 326032, adult ♂, collected at Santa Isabel, Rio Negro, Amazonas, Brazil, October 16, 1930, by E. G. Holt, E. R. Blake, and C. T. Agostini.

Subspecific characters: male similar to that of *Capito auratus amazonicus* (nearer to this form than to any other of the species) from Tefe, on the Amazon, but differs from it by having the forehead and crown more streaked and suffused with ochraceous orange to xanthine orange, less yellowish, and with the two large yellowish stripes on the interscapulars and upper back primuline to light cadmium yellow, as opposed to strontian to lemon yellow in *amazonicus*, and with the sides and flanks more

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heavily flecked with blackish. Female very similar to that of *C. a. amazonicus* but with the forehead and crown very slightly more orange, less yellow, the margins of the lesser upper wing coverts darker—bright cinnamon rufous instead of zinc orange. Females of the two forms are not different enough to warrant separation; the race is based on the plumage characters of the male.

Measurements: Four males—wings 82–83 (type 82.2); tail 47.2–50.5 (type 50.5); culmen from base 23–23.5 (type 23); tarsus 23.5–24 (type 23.5 mm.). One female—wing 84, tail 50, culmen from base 23.7; tarsus 22.4 mm. Two males of *C. a. amazonicus* have the following dimensions—wing 81–84; tail 46.2–49; culmen from base 22.3–22.8; tarsus 22.3–23 mm.; two females—wing 82–83; tail 47.4–50; culmen from base 22.6–23; tarsus 22.5–22.8 mm.

Chapman (loc. cit. p. 5–6) writes that his series of topotypical *auratus* from the Ucayali, “. . . . varies more widely than any other seen. With the exception of females from Tonantins (*C. a. nitidior*) every other red-throated race can be matched, or nearly matched, by this Sarayacu series” It would seem from this that the species is still unstable in its characters in the terra typica of its nominate form. No such variability is present in the present series from the upper Rio Negro, and it may be that some of the apparent variability of the Ucayali *auratus* may be an approach to the contiguous race *C. a. novaolindae*.

I am indebted to Dr. John T. Zimmer of the American Museum of Natural History for the loan of specimens of *C. a. amazonicus* in the present connection. I have also examined material of the following races in this study—*aurantiicinctus*, *insperatus*, *punctatus* and *novaolindae*.

2. The Geographic Races of the Golden-winged Paroquet, *Brotogeris chrysopterus* (Linnaeus).

A study of the geographic variations of the little golden-winged paroquet, *Brotogeris chrysopterus*, reveals that in addition to the four forms currently recognized, there is a fifth one inhabiting the basin of the Rio Negro. This one may be known as

Brotogeris chrysopterus tenuifrons subsp. nov.

Type: U. S. Nat. Mus. 325937, ad. ♂, collected at Santa Isabel, Rio Negro, Amazonas, Brazil, October 13, 1930, by E. G. Holt, E. R. Blake, and C. T. Agostini; original no. 3808.

Subspecific characters: agrees with *B. c. tuipara* of the south bank of the lower Amazon in having the chin spot orange (not brownish as in the nominate form) but differs from that race in having practically no frontal band and what little there is, is not orange (as in *tuipara*) but brownish, almost as in *chrysopterus*. (The fourth race, *chrysosema* of the Rio

Madeira and Matto Grosso, has a broad light yellow frontal band). In other words, *tenuifrons* resembles *tuipara* below and *chrysopterus* above. From the description of *solimoensis* it differs in having the chin spot brighter, as in *tuipara*, and appears to be a smaller bird as well.

Description of type: narrow frontal fringe cinnamon brown; crown and occiput between porcelain green and deep porcelain green; nape, interscapulars, back, lower back between grass green and cedar green, paling on rump, upper tail coverts, scapulars, and inner lesser and median upper wing coverts to spinach green; outer lesser and median upper wing coverts grass green suffused, especially on their inner webs with dark bluish; outer greater upper wing coverts capucine yellow to orange, edged and tipped with light cadmium; remiges dark blackish blue edged and tipped with dark yellowish green; median pair of retrices dark yellowish green, the lateral ones similar on their outer webs but pyrite yellow to warbler green on their inner webs; lores, cheeks and auriculars grass green slightly tinged with porcelain green; chin between orange and orange rufous; sides of throat, of breast, and sides and flanks of body pale grass green paling to cource green on the mid-throat and upper breast, and to grass green with a slight yellow-green tinge on the abdomen, vent, thighs, and under tail coverts; under wing coverts bright grass green; under surface of remiges largely dusky squill blue.

Measurements of type: wing 109.2, tail 59.2; culmen from cere 17.2 mm. Two other males measure—wing 107.2–109.8; tail 52+ —59.1; culmen from cere 16.3–16.5; while one female—wing 111, tail 56.8, culmen from cere 16 mm. There is no appreciable difference in dimensions between *tenuifrons* and *chrysopterus*. The race *tuipara* has slightly longer wings (113–119 mm.) in the material examined.

Range: known only from the Upper Rio Negro (Santa Isabel, and at the mouth of the Rio Cauabury).

Material examined: *B. c. chrysopterus* 5 from British Guiana; *B. c. tuipara* 2 from lower Amazonia; *B. c. chrysosema* 1 from Bolivia; *B. c. tenuifrons* 4 from the Upper Rio Negro.